REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, and 24 have been amended for the purpose of clarifying what Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter has been added.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 25, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,333 (DeKonig) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,745 (Wiederhold). Claims 17, 20, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning and Wiederhold in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,061 (Jones). Claims 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 19, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning, Wiederhold, and Jones, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,359 (Fong).

Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, and 24

Independent claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 24 recite an *active session limit* that represents a limit on a number of active sessions. Applicants agree with the Examiner that DeKonig does not disclose or suggest an active session limit. According to the Office Action, the abstract, column 6, lines 26-28, column 9, lines 27-47, and column 11, table 1, rules 12 and 21 of Wiederhold allegedly discloses the above limitation. Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent that this rejection is maintained.

Wiederhold is directed toward a security mediator to safeguard the privacy of data and ensure no inappropriate information leaves an enterprise domain. (Wiederhold, column 3, lines 22-25, and column 4, lines 57-58). The approach taken in Wiederhold is for a security mediator to use rules to determine the validity of each *query* and make a determination as to the appropriate response to each *query* based on the rules. (Wiederhold, column 5, lines 35-40). The rules used by the security mediator are classified as pre-processing or *query* rules (e.g. number of queries per session) and post-processing or *query result rules* (e.g. a restriction on the number of database rows retrieved). (Wiederhold, column 6, lines 22-32). Thus, while Wiederhold discloses query rules for limiting the number of queries *in a session*, and the number

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of access within a period, there is nothing in Wiederhold that discloses or suggests an active session limit that represents a limit on a number of active sessions (i.e., Wiederhold is concerned with limiting the number of queries *in a session*, and does not concern with limiting the number of active sessions).

Jones and Fong are not relied upon for the disclosure of the above limitation. However, Applicants note that Jones and Fong also do not disclose or suggest an active session limit that represents a limit on a number of active sessions, as recited in the claims, and therefore fails to make up the deficiency present in DeKoning and Wiederhold.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, and 9, and their respective dependent claims, are believed allowable over DeKonig, Wiederhold, and their combination, claim 17 and its dependent claims are believed allowable over DeKonig, Wiederhold, Jones, and their combination, and claims 8, 16, and 24, and their respective dependent claims are believed allowable over DeKonig, Wiederhold, Jones, Fong, and their combination.

Claims 5, 13, and 21

Claims 5, 13, and 21 recite a configurable value representing a first number of active sessions that the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on a computer system. As similarly discussed above, none of the cited references discloses or suggests a limit on the number of active sessions. For at least the foregoing reason, claims 5, 13, and 21, and their respective dependent claims, are believed allowable over DeKonig, Wiederhold, Jones, Fong, and their combination.
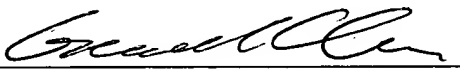
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are believed in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, please contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. **50-2518,** referencing billing number **7010984002**. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. **50-2518,** referencing billing number **7010984002**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 15, 2006   By: _____

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